

REMARKS

Applicants are amending their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention, so as to achieve earliest possible issuance of a U.S. patent based upon the above-identified application. Specifically, Applicants have set forth claim 19 in independent form, incorporating therein subject matters expressly set forth in each of claims 1 and 9. Moreover, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and 24-26 without prejudice or disclaimer, so that the only independent claim now in the application is claim 19, with claims previously dependent on claim 19 being maintained in the present application.

In addition, Applicants are adding new claims 27-36 to the application. These claims 27-36 are ultimately dependent on claim 19; and respectively expressly set forth subject matter previously expressly set forth in claims 2-8 and 24-26, respectively.

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered, notwithstanding the Finality of the Office Action mailed March 16, 2011. Thus, clearly the present cancelling of claims 1-9 and 24-26 is proper and is to be entered, notwithstanding the Finality of the Office Action mailed March 16, 2011. Note, for example, 37 CFR 1.116(b)(1).

Noting that newly added claims 27-36 expressly set forth subject matter expressly recited in claims previously in the application, and that these newly added claims are dependent on claim 19, which has been indicated as being allowable, it is respectfully submitted that these newly added claims 27-36 do not raise any new issues, including any issue of new matter, and should be allowed. While the present amendment adds new claims 27-36, finally rejected claims 1-9, 24 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and thus the number of claims being

considered on the merits herein, after entry of the present amendments, is no greater than the number of finally rejected claims. As the Examiner has indicated allowability of the subject matter of claim 19 for the first time in the Office Action mailed March 16, 2011, clearly the present amendments are timely.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have provided the necessary showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b)(3); and that, accordingly, entry of the present amendments is clearly proper.

Applicants respectfully traverse withdrawal of claim 26 from consideration, in the Office Action mailed March 16, 2011; and also respectfully submit that claim 36 should be considered on the merits herein. That is, claim 36, and previously submitted (and now cancelled) claim 26, recite a property of the circuit connecting material, and are clearly directed respectively to a method of manufacturing a circuit member connecting structure and the circuit connecting material, both being the elected Group I claims in the Office Action mailed October 6, 2008, in the above-identified application, and should be considered on the merits herein.

The contention by the Examiner that the entire body of claim 26 is drawn to a structure that was restricted in the Office Action mailed October 6, 2008, is respectfully traversed. The body of prior claim 26, and presently submitted claim 36, recite a property of the circuit connecting material, not the circuit member connecting structure of the Group II claims in the Office Action mailed October 6, 2008.

Especially noting the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 19, in the Office Action mailed March 16, 2011, and that claim 36 is dependent on claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that claim 36 should be fully considered on the merits herein and allowed to issue in the U.S. patent issuing from the above-identified application.

The rejection of claims on prior art grounds, set forth in Items 1 and 2 on pages 4-6 of the Office Action mailed March 16, 2011, is noted. In light of present cancelling of claims 1-9, 24 and 25; and in light of the indication by the Examiner that the subject matter of claim 19 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejections are moot. Accordingly, no further discussion of the applied prior art is being made.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, entry of the present amendments, reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims in the application, and passing of the above-identified application to issue in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Kindly charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Account No. 01-2135 (case 1303.45151X00), and please credit any overpayments to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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